Blithfield [Pirehill] *(St Leonard)* - rectory

Patrons: On 5 Feb 1643.4 the patron of Blithfield was Sir Harvey Bagot of Blithfield 1st Baronet 1591-1660 (son of Walter Bagot of Blithfield esquire 1557-1623) who in 1646 was deprived as a delinquent. Harvey may have granted the patronage to his son Sir Edward Bagot of Blithfield 2nd Baronet 1616-1673 who presented in 1658 and 1660 (before his father's death).

Ministers: On 5 Feb 1643.4 John Beardmore c1572-1658 (who after presentation by Walter Bagot of Blithfield esquire 1557-1623 had been instituted rector on 15 Jan 1610.1) probably continued as *compliant* minister. Still in office he died shortly before 2 Apr 1658. On 4 Aug 1658 Richard Harrison c1611-1676 after presentation by Sir Edward Bagot of Blithfield 2nd Baronet 1616-1673 was admitted by the *Commission for approbation of public preachers* as *compliant* minister and in early Jun 1660 continued here as *de jure* rector. On 19 Jul 1660 after a further presentation by Sir Edward Bagot he was instituted rector.

15 Jan 1610.1	John Beardmore c1572-1658	*com*	Walter Bagot 1557-1623	a2 Apr 1658
4 Aug 1658	Richard Harrison c1611-1676	*com*	Edward Bagot 1616-1673	31 Mar 1676

Salaries/augmentations:

Assistant ministers-in-charge:
On 5 Feb 1643.4 Thomas Pickin c1613-?1653 (whose father-in-law John Beardmore had probably about 1639 appointed him stipendiary curate-in-charge) probably continued here as *compliant* assistant minister-in-charge. He probably resigned before 3 Sep 1645. By 3 Feb 1651.2 John Middleton c1616-1681 had been appointed (presumably by Beardmore) as *compliant* assistant minister-in-charge and only vacated the rectory on 13 Dec 1658 after Harrison's appointment as minister.

5 Feb 1643.4 [?]	Thomas Pickin c1613-?1653	*com*	not known
a3 Feb 1651.2	John Middleton c1616-1681	*com*	not known

Parish register-books:

Parish registers:

Constablewicks: The parish of three townships - Admaston, Blithfield and Newton - comprised two constablewicks - Blithfield & Admaston and Newton.

BLITHFIELD

Blithfield *(St Leonard)* was a rectory in the patronage of Sir Edward Bagot of Blithfield, Staffs 2nd Baronet 1616-1673 (*qua* lord of the manor).

He had presented Richard Harrison c1611-1676 who was instituted as rector on 19 Jul 1660 (having previously been presbyterian minister here).

The parish contained three townships - Admaston, Blithfield and Newton - which lay in two constablewicks - Blithfield & Admaston and Newton.

Blithfield [Pirehill] MANOR 8.27 (1086); (with Newton) 1332p; PARISH (1532); ♦RECTORY; St Leonard (Pevsner c1250); PRGR 1538+
Districts: Admaston, Blithford, Bold Hall, Newton

BLITHFIELD (St. Leonard), a parish, in the union of Uttoxeter, hundred of South Pirehill, N. division of the county of Stafford, 4¼ miles (N.) from Rugeley; containing, with Newton liberty and Admaston hamlet, 390 inhabitants. The Bagot family, of great eminence and antiquity, possessed this and the adjoining estate of Bagot's-Bromley, at the time of the Domesday survey. In 1195 Hervey Bagot married the heiress of Baron Stafford; his son assumed the surname and title of Stafford, and became progenitor to the succeeding barons and earls of Stafford, and dukes of Buckingham. Of that branch of the family resident at Blithfield and Bromley, was Sir John Bagot, Knt., ancestor of Hervey Bagot, who was created a baronet in 1627: William Bagot was made a baron in 1780. Blithfield Hall, the family seat, is an ancient mansion with embattled towers and walls; it stands in the vale of the Blithe or Blythe, on a beautiful lawn, and contains a large and valuable collection of paintings, among which are portraits of many distinguished persons. Bagot's Park, which forms part of Lord Bagot's pleasuregrounds, is distant a mile and a half to the north-east, in the parish of Abbot's-Bromley; and is well wooded with ancient oaks, and stocked with deer. The living is a rectory, valued in the king's books at £10. 19. 2., and in the patronage of the noble baron; net income, £388. The church stands a quarter of a mile west of Admaston. Elizabeth Bagot and Jane Jones, in 1729, gave land now producing about £35 per annum, which is applied to the support of a school on the national system; and there are some benefactions for distribution among the poor, one of which, of £10 per annum, was left in 1702 by Sir Walter Bagot. [A Topographical Dictionary of England (1848)]

"Blithfield Church, St Leonard, is an ancient structure, and the living is a rectory. Lord Bagot is patron,and the Hon & Rev Hervey Chas. Bagot, MA, is the incumbent."
[WHITE 1851]

Parish History

Description of Church (St Leonard)

Missions

Type of incumbent

Rector	....-1644
Minister (of Presbytery) (Feb 1644-29 May 1660)	1644-1660
Rector	1660-....

Patrons

Parish Registers

The parish register of the parish church of St Leonard commences in 1538. The original registers for the period 1538-1990 are deposited at Staffordshire Record Office but the following sections are missing: Baptisms, 1650-1812; Marriages, 1642-1812; Burials, 1645-1812, although the SRO holds manuscript copies of most of these records. Bishops Transcripts, 1693-1877 (with gaps 1757-51, 1870) are deposited at Lichfield Record Office. [GENUKI]

Bells

Special References

"Rectors of Blithfield" [in] "Notes on the Early History of the Parish of Blithfield" in SHC 1919. NOT FULLY CHECKED

Principal Clergy

----- ----- **1086**
(Rector, Blithfield, Staffs)
- (a priest) 1086 [DOMESDAY]

Richard de Blithfield c1160-.... **c1185-1234**
(Rector, Kingstone, Staffs) c1185-1234
- (presented by [? his father] William de Blithfield)
- (in office) c1185-1234

(Rector, Blithfield, Staffs)
- (in office) c1185-1234

►Hugh le Bret e1194-.... **c1234-c1244**
(Rector, Blithfield, Staffs) c1234-c1244
- (presented by James Blithfield of Blithfield, Staffs c1215-1255)
- (in office) c1234-c1244

►Robert {de} Foston e1215-.... **1255**
(Rector, Blithfield, Staffs)
- (presented by Archdeacon of Stafford *pro* Lichfield, for this turn)
- (in office) 1255

►Robert {de} Hegham e1217-....
(Rector, Blithfield, Staffs)
- (presented by Margaret de Ferrers Countess of Derby *pro* the under age Robert Ferrers 6th Earl of Derby 1239-1279 *pro* the underage Richard Blithfield (lord of Blithfield, Staffs) c1240-a1293) c1257 & c1260
- (never instituted)

►Roger Tok e1217-....
(Rector, Blithfield, Staffs)
- (presented by Thomas de Ferrers) c1257
- (never instituted)

►Ralph Sprigunel e1217-.... **c1257-....**

(Magister)
(Rector, Blithfield, Staffs)
- (presented by Lichfield) c1257
- (instituted) c1257

►Henry Lovel c1220-.... **c1260-....**
(Magister)
(Rector, Appleby Magna, Leics)
(Rector, Blithfield, Staffs) c1260-....
- (presented by Robert Ferrers 6th Earl of Derby 1239-1279 *pro* the underage Richard Blithfield (lord of Blithfield, Staffs) c1240-a1293)
- (instituted) c1260
- (in office) 1285

►Roger Verney c1240-.... **c1286-....**
b c1240 *possibly yr son of Robert Verney of Bramshall, Staffs c1220-....*
(Rector, Blithfield, Staffs)
- (presented by [? his brother-in-law] Richard Blithfield (lord of Blithfield, Staffs) c1240-a1293)
- (instituted) c1286

►Thomas {de} Leys e1267-1350 **1307-1350**
d a5 Mar 1349.50
(Rector, Blithfield, Staffs) 9 Apr 1307-d
- (presented by Richard Blithfield (lord of Blithfield, Staffs) c1270-a1345)
- (instituted) 9 Apr 1307

(21 Jul 1349) John de Blithfield granted the advowson of Blithfield to trustees his brother Henry de Blithfield, Richard de Hampton and William de Hampton

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►Roger Poure c1310-.... **1350-1365**
(Rector, Blithfield, Staffs) 5 Mar 1349.50-24 Jun 1365
- (presented by Henry Blithfield, Richard son of Robert de Hampton & William de Hampton, as Trustees)
- (instituted) 5 Mar 1349.50
- (was granted two years leave of absence and let his church to farm) 1363
- (resigned) by his proxy Robert de Worthyn sub-deacon and exchanged) 24 Jun 1365 [SHC 1907 ii 36]

(Rector, Tinwell, Rutland) 24 Jun 1365-....
- (by exchange) 24 Jun 1365 [SHC 1907 ii 36]

►Richard {de} Bromley c1325-.... **1365-1367**
(Rector, Tinwell, Rutland)....- 24 Jun 1365
- (exchanged) 24 Jun 1365 [SHC 1907 ii 36]

(Rector, Blithfield, Staffs) 24 Jun 1365-10 Jun 1367
- (presented by Sir Ralph Bagot of Bagots Bromley in Abbots Bromley, Staffs Knight c1327-a1376)
- (by exchange, instituted) 24 Jun 1365 [SHC 1907 ii 36]
- (resigned) 10 Jun 1367 [SHC 1907 ii 121]

►Richard Mareschall c1327-.... **1367-1396**
(Rector, Blithfield, Staffs) 10 Jun 1367-15 Dec 1396
- (presented by Sir Ralph Bagot of Bagots Bromley in Abbots Bromley, Staffs Knight c1327-a1376)
- (instituted) 10 Jun 1367 [SHC 1907 ii 121]
- (resigned) 15 Dec 1396

►John {de} Brokesby c1356-.... **1396-1404**
b *son of William {de} Brokesby*
(Rector, Blithfield, Staffs) 15 Dec 1396-12 Dec 1404
- (presented by Sir John Bagot of Bagots Bromley in Abbots Bromley, Staffs Knight c1358-a1437)
- (instituted) 15 Dec 1396
- (resigned) 12 Dec 1404

►John Batford c1364-.... **1404-....**
(Rector, Blithfield, Staffs)
- (presented by Sir John Bagot of Bagots Bromley in Abbots Bromley, Staffs Knight c1358-a1437)
- (as Chaplain, instituted) 12 Dec 1404

►William Ollerton c1368-.... **1408-1409**
(Vicar, Eccleshall, Staffs) ....-18 Dec 1408
- (presented by Sir John Bagot of Bagots Bromley in Abbots Bromley, Staffs Knight c1358-a1437)
- (exchanged) 18 Dec 1408
(Rector, Blithfield, Staffs) 18 Dec 1408-a20 Jun 1409
- (as Chaplain, instituted) 18 Dec 1408
- (resigned) a20 Jun 1409

►Richard Bettelley c1369-.... **1409-1427**
d a30 Jun 1427
(Rector, Blithfield, Staffs) 20 Jun 1409-d
- (presented by Sir John Bagot of Bagots Bromley in Abbots Bromley, Staffs Knight c1358-a1437)
- (instituted) 20 Jun 1409

►Thomas Perkyn c1387-.... **1427-1461**
(Rector, Blithfield, Staffs)
- (presented by Sir John Bagot of Bagots Bromley in Abbots Bromley, Staffs Knight c1358-a1437)
- (instituted) 30 Jun 1427
- (resigned) a2 May 1461

►John Ball c1431-1494 **1461-1494**
d a7 Apr 1494
(Rector, Blithfield, Staffs) 2 May 1461-d
- (presented by Richard Bagot of Blithfield, Staffs Esquire c1412-1485)
- (instituted) 2 May 1461

►John Smith c1464-.... **1494-....**
(Rector, Blithfield, Staffs) 7 Apr 1494-....
- (presented by Sir Lewis Bagot of Blithfield, Staffs Knight c1460-1534)
- (as Smyth, instituted) 7 Apr 1494

►Francis Kynnersley c1500-1550 **1533-1550**
b c1500 *yr son of Thomas Kynnersley of Loxley in Uttoxeter, Staffs gentleman c1464-1539 [SLG]*
i *as Rector de Leigh* 14 Feb 1549.50 Leigh; Will (Lichfield) 16 Feb 1549.50
(B.Can.L., Cambridge) 1533.4 [VENN]
(Rector, Leigh, Staffs) 1526-d
- (presented by Sir Edward Aston of Tixall, Staffs Knight c1493-1568 [SLG])
- (instituted) 9 Oct 1526
(Rector, Blithfield, Staffs) ....-d
- (in office) 1533

►**George Josselyn e1510-1550** **1550**
i *"Item george gestelyn (OR gescelyn) parson of Blyfield Buryed"* 13 Jul 1550
Blithfield
(Rector, Blithfield, Staffs) 9 Jun 1550-d
- (presented by the Crown, presumably as guardian of the under age Richard Bagot of Blithfield, Staffs Esquire 1529-1597)
- (paid first fruits) 12 May 1550
- (instituted) 9 Jun 1550

►**William Norman e1508-1573** **1550-1573**
Will (?Lichfield) 17 Feb 1572.3
(Chantry Chaplain *pro* The Priest's Service *at* Leigh, Staffs)
(had a salary and was granted a pension of £1) 1548
(Rector, Blithfield, Staffs) 18 Sep 1550-d
- (presented by the Crown, presumably as guardian of the under age Richard Bagot of Blithfield, Staffs Esquire 1529-1597)
- (instituted) 18 Sep 1550

►**Richard Cook c1534-1617** **1573-1611**
i 25 May 1617 Dilhorne; Will (Lichfield) 4 Jun 1617
(ordained priest by Lichfield, Ralph Bane, in office) 1554-?1559
(Stipendiary Curate, Grendon, Warwicks)
- (in office) 25 Jun 1561
(joint-Perpetual Curate, Stone St Michael, Staffs)
- (paid a subsidy of 6/8) 1569 & 1572 & 1573
- (in office) 19 Jun 1573
(Rector, Blithfield, Staffs) 24 Jul 1573-a15 Jan 1610.1
- (presented by Richard Bagot of Blithfield, Staffs Esquire 1529-1597)
- (instituted) 24 Jul 1573
- ("Scholaris ruralis et in sacris litteris instructus. Unlearned, pluralist, non-resident") [1604 return]
(Vicar, Dilhorne, Staffs) 13 Jul 1575-d
- (presented by George Warner of Dilhorne, Staffs "gentleman" c1522-....)
- (instituted) 13 Jul 1575

John Beardmore (rector of Blithfield, Staffs) c1572-1658
Beardmore, born about 1573, is of unknown parentage but probably son of a Staffordshire "gentleman". He was only educated to literate grade. He was probably ordained deacon before Aug 1594 when he was in office as parochial curate of Whitmore. On 27 Feb 1595.6 he was ordained ? priest by Lichfield. He was a stipendiary curate at Swynnerton from 1599 to 1604 (with a stipend of £13/11/8 or £10) and at Blithfield from Mar 1604.5. Here on 15 Jan 1610.1 after presentation by Walter Bagot of Blithfield Esquire 1557-1623 he was instituted rector. He was inducted on 26 Jan and read the *Articles of religion* at the church on 27 Jan 1610.1. About 1639 he probably appointed his son-in-law Thomas Pickin c1613-1653 **QV** as stipendiary curate-in-charge. On 5 Feb 1643.4 Beardmore probably continued as *compliant* minister and Pickin as *compliant* assistant minister-in-charge. Pickin probably resigned before 3 Sep 1645. By 3 Feb 1651.2 John Middleton c1616-1681 **QV** had been appointed (presumably by Beardmore) as *compliant* assistant minister-in-charge and only vacated the rectory after Beardmore's death. Whilst non-resident at Blithfield Beardmore appears to have lived at "Westcroft", Essington in Bushbury where he probably died, aged about 86, shortly before 2 Apr 1658. His will made 4 Mar 1654.5 was proved under *PCC* on 2 Apr 1658. Beardmore married on 14 Aug 1615 at Bushbury to Jane Everdon 1592-1671 1st dau of Edward Everdon of Bushbury gentleman 1564-.... [SLG] by whom he had 2 sons and 1 daughter. His daughter Elizabeth was the wife of Thomas Pickin c1616-?1653 (above). It is probable that Beardmore was the son of a Staffordshire "gentleman" for he mentions property in Abbots Bromley in his will, his wife's personalty was about £100 and his two sons both styled themselves as "gentleman".

►**John Beardmore (rector of Blithfield, Staffs) c1572-1658** **1611-1658**
b c1572 *of unknown parentage*

m 14 Aug 1615 Bushbury: Jane Everdon 1st dau of Edward Everdon of Bushbury, Staffs gentleman 1564-.... [SLG];

c 12 Feb 1591.2 Bushbury; i *of Westcroft* 27 May 1671 Bushbury; Will (Lichfield) 23 May 1671/5 Jun 1671

i [X FMP, Bushbury PR not survived 1638-1661]; Will *as John Beardmore, Clerk of Westcroft, Staffordshire* (PCC) 4 Mar 1654.5/2 Apr 1658

(Parochial Curate, Whitmore, Staffs)

- (as clerk, signed parish register) cAug 1594
- (in office) 13 Sep 1597
- (William Machin in office) 1597-1601

(ordained ?priest by Lichfield) 27 Feb 1595.6

(Stipendiary Curate, Swynnerton, Staffs) 1599-1604

(1602) Swinnerton - John Berdmore - curate - no degree - no preacher - £13/11/8 stipend [DAJ (1884) p162]

(1604) Swynnerton - Rectory - 30. SWYNERTON, a Parson. held by the Bp. in commend.; in farm to Mr Gattichar, a Papist, worth £5 per ann. Curate John Beardmore. Pension £10. No preacher.

(Stipendiary Curate, Blithfield, Staffs) 22 Jul 1605-15 Jan 1610.1

- (in office) Mar 1604.5
- (in office) 22 Jul 1605
- (in office) 1611

(Rector, Blithfield, Staffs) 15 Jan 1610.1-d

- (presented by Walter Bagot of Blithfield, Staffs Esquire 1557-1623)
- (instituted) 15 Jan 1610.1
- (inducted) 26 Jan 1610.1
- (read the Articles of religion at the church) 27 Jan 1610.1
- (possibly resigned in favour of his son-in-law) 5 Feb 1643.4

(conpliant minister, Blithfield, Staffs)

- (Thomas Pickin in office as compliant minister) ? 5 Feb 1643.4-May 1645
- (John Middleton in office as compliant minister) a3 Feb 1651.2

chn: Walter Beardmore c 30 Jun 1616 Blithfield; m ----- -----; (and had chn: Elizabeth, Mary, Margaret); Will *of*

Bushbury gent. (Lichfield) 15 Aug 1667/10 Apr 1668

Elizabeth Beardmore c 21 May 1620 Blithfield; m 4 Nov 1639 Blithfield: Thomas Pickin c1616-?1653 [SCD];

(and had chn: Elizabeth 1640-1645); i 24 Nov 1640 Blithfield

Richard Beardmore b c1622; Will *of Abbots Bromley gent.* (Lichfield) 21 May 1677/16 Nov 1677

(1633) Beardmore v Eggington. Plaintiffs: John Beardmore, clerk. Defendants: John Eggington, Jane Eggington his wife, John Baylie and John Hide. Subject: property in Bushbury and Essington, Staffordshire. [NA C 8/42/93]

(1649) Hide v Beardmore. Plaintiffs: Margery Hide widow. Defendants: John Beardmore and Jane Beardmore his wife. Subject: property in Bushbury, Staffordshire. [NA C 6/115/68]

(4 Mar 1654.5) John Beardmore of Westcroft Staffs clerk ... sonne Walter ... sonne Richard my howse and lands and lease in Abbots Bromley and Baggots Bromley ... godsonne John Beardmore .. son Walter his three daughters Elizabeth Marie and Margaret ... wife Jane [executor] ...

(23 May 1671) Jaine Beardmore of West crofts widow ... John B. grandchild ... grandchild Walter B. ... grandchild Elizabeth ... other [unnamed] grandchildren ... son Walter ...son Richard B. [executor] (and his 2 sons) ... Inventory (30 May 1671) [Very roughly £100]

When he [Richard Cooke] resigned Blithfield in 1610, he was succeeded by John Beardmore, who, having been presented by Walter Bagot, Esq., was instituted Jan. 15th, 1610/1 [fn2 So states the Bishop's Certificate in First-fruits Department of Exchequer Records.], inducted Jan. 26th, and " read himself in" the following day. This he carefully recorded in the Parish Register in Latin memoranda, of which the translation is as follows :—

" Memorandum ; that I John Beardmore, Clerk, was inducted in the real actual and corporal possession of this Church and Rectory of Blithfield, and of its entire rights and belongings, according to the form of law, on the twenty-sixth day of January in the year of our Lord 1610, by Christopher Hunt, Clerk, and Rector of Colton.

in the presence of (signed) Lewis Bagott. Humfrey Warner. &c. &c."

" Memorandum also, that on the Sunday next following viz. the twenty-seventh day of January, in the year of our Lord 1610, I the aforesaid John Beardmore, in the face of this Church of Blithfield, during Divine Service while the larger number of people was present to hear the same Divine Order, publicly, deliberately, and solemnly published, declared, and read the Articles of Religion (which were agreed upon in the Synod of London with the assent of the Archbishops Bishops and Clergy of both Provinces of Canterbury and York in the year of our Lord 1562, published with the King's authority and assent, for the removing of variety in opinions, and strengthening the true uniform Christian Religion" (Names of witnesses follow.)

This, however, was not the first appearance of Beardmore upon the scene, for he signs the Register of Burials of 1605 as " Minister " ; and from the handwriting of the Baptism entries it may be gathered that he became Cooke's Curate in March 1604/5, succeeding the Henry ----- already mentioned. It is probable that he was Curate of Whitmore Chapel, Stoke, in 1595, when he is described by the Puritans as being "no preacher and without a degree" [fn1 There was, however, another John Beardmore, who was curate at Kingsley in 1571.] He signs the Stoke Register as "Clerk" in 1595. Since 1599 he had been Curate of Swynnerton, but on the appointment of Stockell [*recte* Stocket] Lutwich to that Rectory, on Oct. 3rd 1604, his services there probably came to an end. It is not known what it was that terminated his connection with Blithfield, but it appears from the Register of 1639 that Thomas Picken married Elizabeth Beardmore on Nov. 4th of that year, and about this

time became Curate. Picken baptized a daughter Nov. 22nd 1640, and remained in charge of the Parish till 1645. His wife was buried at Blithfield Nov. 24th 1640 and his daughter Elizabeth Feb. 1644/5. On Sep. 3rd 1645 he was instituted Rector of Swynnerton, for which, benefice he paid " first-fruits " May 19th 1647 ; but a certain Puritan Minister, Joseph Sond [fn3. Brit. Mus. Add. MSS. 15671, folios 162 and 240. On July 24 1647 the " Commissioners for plundered ministers " enquired into a complaint made by Joseph Sound, who asserted that he had been settled into the Rectory of Swynnerton. They ordered that he should be confirmed in the possession of that Rectory, unless Picken could show cause to the contrary before November 9 1647. Apparently he did show such cause, for he was still incumbent of Swynnerton in 1651-2, and Sond became Curate of Newcastle, where he remained till April 24 1654, when Oliver Cromwell presented him to the Rectory of Swynnerton. (Lamb MSS. 997, p. 109.)] was in July 1647 endeavouring to oust him.

The following two extracts from an old Blithfield Tithe-Book are in John Beardmore's handwriting :—

A MEDICINE AGAINST SYNEWE SPREANS OR OTHER ACHES IN THE LYMES.

" Take a handful of ffether-few, a handful of wormwood, a handful of mugworth, a handful of camamile, half a handful of elder leaves, half a handful of dog-fennel, a little red fennel, put all these together, wash them cleane, but wringe them not, and being washed, chop them with a hackinge knyfe, as smale as you can. Then take half a pownd of fresh butter, with new had salt in it, and half a pownd of gaults grease, then sett the hearbes upon a soft charcole fyre, and put to them as much of the butter and grease as will only keep them moist in the boylinge, and so boylinge the hearbes sloly, put in still of butter and grease so much as shall be needful until the liquid substance be made stronge of the hearbes. Then take it of the fyre, and straine the moysture from the hearbes, and take of that moysture and anoynt the place grieved, and when you anoynt it stroake it upwards, having so donne take the hearbes and spread them on a lynen cloath, and bynd that pultisse upon the place where the partie feeleth most paine, let the partie goe to bed and kept there all night and ontill the next daye at hoone, and if the patient can endure longer it will doe well to lye until night, and the pultisse will do more good. Then take away the pultisse and anoynt the place everye night with the moysture, after having first warmed it in a sawser, and he shall fynd ease by the helpe of God."

The other entry is a form which he was probably in the habit of using when helping his parishioners to make their wills :—

" In the name and to the honoure of God Almighty 3 in one and one in three blessed for evermore. I etc. the weakest and unworthiest of all that take on them the profession of God's feare, and knowinge and wayghinge the common condicion of human frailty and not proposing to dye intestate beinge of sound mynde and perfect memorie (praised be God) doe advisedly and irrevocably make and ordayne this my last will and testament in manner and forme following : First of all I give and bequeath my sinful soul into the hands of Almighty God, that gave it and bought it with a pryce above all pryce, and sanctified it freely, though imperfectly, and will in due tyme gloryfie it in his everlasting kingdome. Item I give my body to the earth from whence it came, and to be buried in such seemly and convenient place and manner as my execs. shall think fit, in sure and certain hope of resurrection to life eternall at the last day. " And from niy worldly goods &c."

There is no record as to what spiritual ministrations (if any) were provided for Blithfield between 1645 and 1658 ; but it appears from the Parish Register that in the latter year Mr. John Middleton was acting as " Curate". He also occurs as "Minister" here, with " 10.19.02." [fn1 presumably, October 19th 1602] after his name, in a return of the names of ministers ordered on Nov. 28th 1651 by "the Keepers of the lib'tie of England, by authority of Parliament " and "sent to the Sheriff of Staffordshire for the use of the Barons of the Exchequer." The return was made on, or before, Feb. 3rd 1651/2. [fn2 Exchq. First Fruits, Return of Benefices, etc., Temp. Commonwealth, at P.R.O.]

On Aug. 4th 1658 Richard Harrison, M.A., was instituted Rector ....

[SHC 1919 p112-5]

----- Beardmore

chn: [?] Susan Beardmore b c1586; m 2 Oct 1611 Swynnerton: Ralph Hall **see SCD**

[?] Thomas Beardmore

John Beardmore b c1572

Thomas Beardmore of Bagots Bromley in Abbots Bromley, Staffs gentleman

m Margaret -----

(19 Oct 1614) Settlement between Thomas Beardmore of Bagotts Bromley, co. Staffs., gent. and Margaret his wife, and William George of London, plumber (son and heir apparent of the said Margaret) of the first part, George Ludford of Ansley, esq. and Richard Whitehall of Oldbury, gent., of the second part, Simon Alsopp of Ansley, yeoman, of the third part, and Francis Levinge of Baddesley Ensor, gent. of the fourth part (reciting that Thomas Beardmore and Margaret his wife had levied a fine to George Ludford and Richard Whitehall of a meadow called Stewarts Meadow in the common fields of Ansley, one flatt of meadow and another piece of meadow lying at the north end of the aforesaid lands abutting on the Alder Parke in Ansley, then in the tenure of Simon Alsop, a pasture called Hoard Parke in Bentley, and two other closes of pasture called Pynnels, adjoining to Hoare Parke in Bentley aforesaid, then in the tenure of William Sadler) whereby it was witnessed that the said George Ludford and Richard Whitehall should stand seised of the said premises to certain uses therein specified. [Shakespeare Birthplace Trust ER 3/2546]

Richard Harrison M.A. (rector of Blithfield & vicar of Lichfield St Mary) c1611-1676 52

Harrison, born about 1611, was a son of Richard Harrison of Minshull Vernon, Cheshire "gentleman" (? and Ellen Venables). He studied at Oxford where on 10 Jun 1630 he was a student at Brasenose College and matriculated. At Oxford he graduated B.A. on 28 Jan 1629.30 (M.A., 3 Oct 1632). In 1633 his M.A. was incorporated at Cambridge (where he had entered on 10 Jun 1630). He was ordained deacon and on 18 Feb 1637.8 ordained priest by Lichfield.

A man of his name was said to be "minister of Warmingham, Cheshire" in 1641. On 5 Feb 1643.4 he may not have been in an office. In Sep 1645 he was appointed *compliant* minister of Lichfield St Mary but ejected about 1647 when it is said that "He was sent to Jayl, his House was Plunder'd, all his Books burnt, his Wife and Children were thrown out of Doors, and himself forced to Fly and Abscond for Two Years". On 4 Feb 1648.9 he was appointed *compliant* assistant minister of Tettenhall. Here Thomas Beiston c1586-1652 was *compliant* minister. On 27 May 1653, following Beistons' death, after presentation by the *Commissioners of the great seal* Harrison was appointed here as *compliant* minister and by 12 Sep 1653 had also been appointed parish register. In 1655 some of his parishioners petitioned for his ejection alleging that he had officiated at Lichfield whilst it was a royal garrison and on deserting Lichfield had been articled against for delinquency. On 25

Jul 1655 his successor Thomas Buxton was appointed as presbyterian minister and on 1 Dec 1656 as parish register. The next month on 24 Jan 1656.7 Harrison delivered the register books to the churchwarden and wrote a note in the christening register "Ric. Harrisson legally chosen Register of Tettenhall, haveing used h[is] endeavor to learne the names, & register the birthes, burialls, & marriages [within] the parish, & failing therein, not only in regard of his enforced absence, but thr[ough] the neglect or wilfulness of persons concerned doth ~~voluntarily~~ (?coacte [? *by force*]) deliver up [the] Register Bookes to the lawfull church warden". On 4 Aug 1658 after presentation by Sir Edward Bagot of Blithfield 2nd Baronet 1616-1673 he was admitted by the *Commission for approbation of public preachers* as *compliant* presbyterian minister of Blithfield. Here on 18 Aug the churchwardens gave him possession of the rectory and on 13 Dec John Middleton c1616-1681 gave him possession of the rectory house. Middleton had been compliant minister (or assistant minister) at Blithfield from 1652 or earlier. In early Jun 1660 he continued here as *de jure* rector. On 19 Jul 1660, after a further presentation by (the lord of the manor) Sir Edward Bagot of Blithfield 2nd Baronet 1616-1673 he was instituted rector and on 7 Aug inducted by John Sanders [John Saunders B.A. (Rector of Colton) c1619-1682]. On 6 Sep 1660 he was by mandate of the bishop installed as chancellor of Lichfield (*and thus* prebendary of Lichfield Alrewas) and on 7 Dec 1660 formally presented by the Crown. By *An act for the confirming and restoring of ministers* (13 Sep 1660) Harrison was *plurally* "restored" as *de jure* vicar of Lichfield St Mary (after the removal of John Butler c1621-1671). On 18 Jun 1661 after presentation by the Crown he was also admitted as a canon residentiary at Lichfield. In 1665 he certified the hearth tax for Blithfield & Admaston and Newton constablewicks and was assessed on 4 hearths at Blithfield township and 1 hearth at Lichfield Close constablewick. It is said that his house, "The Choristers' House", on the south side of The Close had been leased to him on 24 Jun 1661. About 1670 he moved from Blithfield to live in Bore Street, Lichfield. Still in office at Blithfield and Lichfield and as chancellor he died, aged about 65, on 31 Mar 1676 and was buried on 3 Apr 1676 at Lichfield St Mary. His will made on 15 Jan 1675.6 was proved under Lichfield on 22 Apr 1676. His personalty was valued at £400/13/4 and included " In the Hall "a bible & stand & booke of Martyrs 14/0 ... a table Form 2 leather chairs and other wooden ware 12/0 ... a grate 4/0 ... mapps and pictures 2/6" ... "In the study "Bookes £50" ... a table shelvs & boxes £1/6/8" "In Money due by bond & other debts £140" "of the house in Bore Street £100" . Harrison married about 1641 Elizabeth (probably Elizabeth Beardsley (b 1620) daughter of Richard Beardsley of Lichfield) by whom he had 7 sons and 6 daughters. His eldest daughter Sarah married on 1 Jan 1665.6 at Blithfield to Isaac Sympson M.A. (vicar of Alrewas) c1641-1684 **QV** who had been presented by Harrison in 1662 and who succeded him at Lichfield St Mary. Another daughter Mary married about 1680 John Inett 1647-1718 (chanter of Lincoln cathedral) . In 1695 Harrison's widow was living in Bore Street, Lichfield with two widowed daughters and some grandchildren. Harrison *qua* vicar of Lichfield St Mary was patron of the parochial chapelries of Lichfield St Chad (where he had probably presented Hugh Braddocke **QV** in 1663) and Lichfield St Michael. Also Harrison *qua* prebendary of Alrewas was patron of the vicarage of Alrewas (where he had presented Isaac Sympson **QV** in 1662) and of the parochial chapelries of Edingale (where he had probably presented Thomas Wilson **QV** in 1663), Kings Bromley (where he had probably presented Brutus Ottey **QV** in 1662) and Pipe Ridware (where he had probably presented Josias Deane **QV** about 1663). Elias Ashmole of Lichfield esquire 1617-1692 who was a freemason styles Richard Harrison "brother" in the years 1646 and 1676 perhaps because Harrison was a fellow freemason.

►Richard Harrison (Rector of Blithfield, Staffs) c1611-1676
b c1611 *son of Richard Harrison of Minshull Vernon, Cheshire "gentleman" [? and Ellen Venables (who m 3 Jun 1605 Church Minshull)]*
m c1641 Elizabeth ----- [? 8 Jun 1637 Lichfield St Mary: Elizabeth Beardsley; c 16 Dec 1620 Lichfield St Mary dau of Richard Beardsley and Elizabeth Rawlinson (who m May 1618 Lichfield)]
d 31 Mar 1676; i 3 Apr 1676 Lichfield St Mary; Will *of Lichfield clerk* (Lichfield) 15 Jan 1675.6/22 Apr 1676

(aged 19, as son of Richard of Minshul Vernon, Cheshire pleb., matriculated from Brasenose College, Oxford) 10 Jun 1630 [FOSTER]
(subscribed) 22 Jan 1629.30 [? what is this]
(B.A.) 28 Jan 1629.30
(M.A.) 3 Oct 1632
(incorporated at Cambridge, having entered 10 Jun 1630) 1633 [VENN]
(ordained priest by Lichfield) 18 Feb 1637.8
[? (Minister, Warmingham, Cheshire) 1641] [VENN]
(*compliant* minister, Lichfield St Mary, Staffs) Sep 1645-c1647
- ("inducted") 21 OR 29 Sep 1645 [Harwood (1806) 474/535] [presumably meaning appointed]
- (ejected) c1647

(*compliant* assistant minister, Tettenhall, Staffs) 4 Feb 1648.9-1653
- (appointed) 4 Feb 1648.9
(*compliant* minister, Tettenhall, Staffs) 1653-cJun 1655
- (presented under Great Seal) 27 May 1653
- (signs parish register as "register") 12 Sep 1653
- (Thomas Buxton was appointed as minister) 25 Jul 1655
- (Thomas Buxton was appointed as register) 1 Dec 1656
- (delivered the register books to the churchwarden) 24 Jan 1656.7
(*compliant* minister, Blithfield, Staffs) 4 Aug 1658-d
- (presented by [Sir] Edward Bagot of Blithfield, Staffs [2nd Baronet] 1616-1673)
- (admitted by the Triers) 4 Aug 1658
(Rector, Blithfield, Staffs) 19 Jul 1660-d
- (re-presented by [Sir] Edward Bagot of Blithfield, Staffs [2nd Baronet] 1616-1673)
- (instituted) 19 Jul 1660
- (not valued) 1665
- (as Mr, 4 hearths, Blithfield & Admaston) 1665 [1666 HT]
- (certified the hearth tax for Blithfield & Admaston and Newton constablewicks) 1665 [1666 HT]
(Chancellor, Lichfield *thus* Prebendary, Lichfield Alrewas) 6 Sep 1660-d
- (succeded in a house by Robert Hill) 6 Sep 1660 [D30/2/1/7 f4v-5)]
- (installed on mandate of Bishop) 6 Sep 1660
- ("by reason of lapse or sede vacante", presented by the Crown) 7 Dec 1660 [PRO C 66/2919]
(vacated house A of John Arnway) 8 Jan 1660.1 [D30/2/1/7 f14v]
(Canon Residentiary, Lichfield II) 18 Jun 1661-d
- (presented by the Crown)
- (admitted to residence) 18 Jun 1661 [D30/2/1/7 f25v-26]
- (succeded in house by Edward Fulham)
- (named as 2nd of 6 men "now possessed of Canonicall howses") Nov 1665 [SHC 1923 239, but no source quoted]
- (as Mr., 1 hearth, Lichfield Close) 1665 [1666 HT] [A note in the printed HT - SHC 1923 p239 - states this was "The Choristers' House , on S. side . Leased to him 24 Jun 1661. Removed in 1772.]
(Vicar, Lichfield St Mary, Staffs) ?1661-a8 Aug 1675
(perhaps presented by the dean of Lichfield then William Paul 1599-1665 (who was installed 8 Apr 1661))
- (instituted) ?1661
- (not valued) 1665
[SIMMS]
chn: Charles Harrison b c1642; m1 ----- -----; (and had chn: Richard c 4 May 1670 Lichfield St Mary); (Junior
Bailiff, Lichfield) 1677; m2 1681 Blanche Mayne; (Senior Bailiff, Lichfield) 1683; i *as gent.* 26 Apr 1688
Lichfield St Mary
Sarah Harrison [1] b c1644; m 1 Jan 1665.6 Blithfield: Isaac Sympson (Vicar of Alrewas, Staffs)
c1641-1684 **[SCD]**; (and had chn: Sarah b 24 Nov 1666 [PR]; c 23 Apr 1668 Blithfield; John Sympson
c 23 Apr 1668 Lichfield St Mary and others)
- [dau]- Harrison m ----- Stark; (and had chn: Richard)
Thomas Harrison c *mother Elizabeth* 3 Oct 1649 Tettenhall
Mary Harrison c 25 Dec 1651 Tettenhall; m c1680 John Inett 1647-1718 (Chanter of Lincoln Cathedral)
[ODNB]; (and had chn: Mary c 14 Sep 1681 Nuneaton, Warwicks); d 26 Nov 1727; i Lincoln Cathedral
John Harrison b 9 Jun 1655 PR; c 18 Jun 1655 Tettenhall
Eleanor Harrison b 9 Dec 1656 Perton [PR]; c *as Ellen, mother Elizabeth* 16 Dec 1656 Tettenhall; m (by
Lichfield licence, 29 Sep 1688) Thomas Roe of Lichfield, Staffs apothecary c1652-1690 **[SDH];** (no chn)
- dau- Harrison
- dau- Harrison
Richard Harrison c 20 Oct 1668 Blithfield; d *young*
Harvey Harrison b c1670; i 12 Jan 1679.80 Lichfield St Mary
Walter Harrison b c1672; (Junior Bailiff, Lichfield) 1714
Edward Harrison b c1674

(21 Sep 1645) (Lichfield St Michael PR) Mr. Harrison was inducted into, the Vicarage, of St. Mary's, Sept. 21 1645 Received, since Mr. Harrison was Vicar the summe of £2/3/4 Dec, 31 1645 Deduct my wages of £1/6/8 for the last quarter, there remaines in my handes 16/8 which I am to account for to Mr. Harrison, the next quarter. Mem. that out of that is allowed me 11/8 for Mr. Povey. Ita est Richard Harrison, Thomas Hubbocke. [Harwood (1806) 535]
(31 Jul 1646) "my brother Harrison told me of my my mother's death" [Josten *Elias Ashmole II* (1966) p389] [footnote]
(24 Jan 1656.7, Tettenhall PR (christenings)) Jan, 24[?], 1656. "Ric. Harrisson legally chosen Register of Tettenhall, haveing used h[is] endeavor to learne the names, & register the birthes, burialls, & marriages [within] the parish, & failing therein, not only in regard of his enforced absence, but thr[ough] the neglect or wilfulness of persons concerned doth ~~voluntarily~~ (? coacte [? *by force*]) deliver up [the] Register Bookes to the lawfull church warden".
(1658/1660) Richard Harrison Mr. of Arts & clerk was approved & admitted Rector of Blythfield within the County of Stafford the fourth day of August 1658. & had peaceable possession of the said Rectory given him by the Church=wardens Walter Proctor & William Brookes upon Wednesday the 18th day of the fores'd August; [handwriting changes] and quiett & peaceable possession of the Parsonage-house by Mr John Middleton late Curate there upon Munday the 13th day of December in the presence of Mr ----- Glen of Dovebridge Clerke, & Mr Thomas Launder of Ridgley. - Walter Proctor William Brookes Church wardens [handwriting changes] After hee was Instituted by Accepted Lord Bishop of Lichf: & Coventrie & inducted by Mr. John Sanders [? John Saunders B.A. (Rector of Colton) c1619-1682] Aug: 7. 1660. [Blithfield PR - original checked]
(14 Nov 1662) City of Lichfield. Names of inhabitants too poor to be assessed for the hearth Tax ... Richard Harrison Vicar of the united parishes of St Maryes, Stowe [St Chads] and St Michaells in the said city of Lichfield ... [SHC 1936 p165]
(1665.6, Blithfield) Mr Isaac Sympson Vicar of Alrewas ... & Sarah the eldest daughter of Richard Harrison Rector of Blithfield were married by Mr John Sympson upon Munday [? for Sunday] being Circumcision day 1665 [Handwritten copy of register] [Circumcision day is 1 Jan which in 1665.6 fell on a Sunday]
(15 Jan 1675.6) Richard Harrison of Lichfield clerke ... give and bequeathe my twelve sonnes and daughters now liveing twenty shillings apiece ... grandchild Richard Harrison my sonne Charles his sonne my silver cup marked R.H. And to John Sympson my grandchild the gold ring given mee at Bishop Hacketts funerall and to my grandchild Richard Stark 20s to buy him two silver spoones . And whereas I have assigned my 3 younger daughters [all under 21] theire severall portions out of other estates ... I give to my wife the house wherein I now inhabitt in Borestreet ... charge and tuition of my 3 sonnes Harvey, Walter & Edward ... Adm Bondsmen Elizabeth Harrison of Lichfield vid. & Isaa-cum- Simpson de Alrewas clerke ... Elizabeth Harrison to whom the tuition and education of Harvey, Walter & Edward Harrison [under age children] ... Inventory (not dated) ... In the Hall "a bible & stand & booke of Martyrs 14/0 ... a table Form 2 leather chairs and other wooden ware 12/0 ... a grate 4/0 ... mapps and pictures 2/6" ... "In the study "Bookes £50" ... a table shelvs & boxes £1/6/8" "In Money due by bond & other debts £140" "of the house in Bore Street £100" Total £400/13/4
(31 Mar 1676) My Brother Harison of Lichfeild died" [Josten *Elias Ashmole IV* (1966) p1444] [Diary]
(1695, Lichfield, Bore Street) Elizabeth Harrison, widow of a canon of the cathedral of Lichfield, 68; Ellen Row, widow, 37; Sarah Sympson, widow, 40; Elizabeth, 16; Mary, her daughters, 11, Thomas, her son, 10. [G.KING: 1695 184]
(1714) ----- HARISON Canonry Resid. He was sent to Jayl, his House was Plunder'd, all his Books burnt, his Wife and Children were thrown out of Doors, and himself forced to Fly and Abscond for Two Years. There are but Four Residentiaries in this Church so he makes a Duplicate as Mr Newel before doth; but whether he preceded or succeeded any of the other Residentiaries here named, and by confequence, whether he makes a First or only Second Sufferer in it, I cannot be Positive but believe the Former. [Walker (1714) II p41]
(1717) [Lincoln Cathedral] Here lyeth the Body of | John Inett, D.D. Chanter of this Cathedral | Install'd Chanter the 27th February, 1681 | He dyed the 4th of March 1717 | Aged 70 years | Here lyeth the Body of | Mary, Wife of John Inett, D.D. | She dyed Nov. 26th 1727 | Aged 70 years | Here lyeth the Body of | Ellen Roe | Wife of Thomas Roe, of Lichfield | Both Daughters of Richard Harrison | Chancellor of the Church of Lichfield | Aged 71 years [John Inett *Origines Anglicanae I* (1855) p xviii]
(1915) It is uncertain how long he remained vicar here [Lichfield St Mary], but in 1650 he was acting as curate at Tettenhall and in 1652 became "vicar" there. On 13 Apr 1655 the inhabitants of Tettenhall petitioned the Council of State for the removal of Harrison from the ministry there and stated that he had been articled against for malignancy at Lichfield after its reduction on 10 Jul 1646; and that he had not been approved by the commissioners on 24 Nov 1654, notwithstanding which the malignants of Tettenhall had kept him in possession of the cure which he had served for 5 years. The petitioners succeeded in getting him removed, but in August 1658 he obtained the rectory of Blithfield. In 1660 he was made chancellor of Lichfield and soon after was restored to the vicarage of S. Mary's, in which church he was buried. [1915 178]
HARRISON, RICHARD (41). vicar of St Mary, Lichfield, 1645. According to Walker he was imprisoned. curate of Tettenhall, presented under Great Seal, 27 May 1653, on death of predecessor, to whom he was curate from 4 Feb 1648.9. 'Well-affected' parishioners petitioned Council for his ejection, 1655; alleged he officiated at Lichfeld, then a royal garrison; on deserting Lichfeld was articled against for delinquency ; the Triers would not approve him. Council left petitioners to proceed in ordinary course of law. T. Buxton (C.R.) admitted 25 July 1655. P.R. shows Harrison resigned registrarship, 24 Jan. 1656/7, having failed to get particulars 'not only in regard of his enforced absence, but through the neglect or wilfulness of persons concerned'. rector of Blithfield, admitted by Triers, 1658. Canon of Lichfeld (not earlier, pace W.), 1660-76 d. Children by wife Elizabeth, 2 sons & 2 daus., bap. at Tettenhall, 1649-56. See W. Langley & Gr. Higgs: A.M. 36792. 67: P.R.: Calendar of State Papers Domestic 1655: Lambeth MS 999. 78: 46 R. [Walker Rev.]
(1919) On Aug. 4th 1658 Richard Harrison, M.A., was instituted Rector on the presentation of Edward Bagot, Esq. [fn3 So Lambeth MSS. 999, fol. 78. He may possibly have acted in the matter as being resident at Blithfield, but he was not the lawful patron, unless indeed his father, Sir Hervey, who was still living at Field, had in his lifetime made over the property to him.] ~~The entry relating to this in the Parish Register is as follows :— Richard Harrison Mr of Arts & clerk was approved & admitted Rector of Blithfield within the County of Stafford the fourth day of August 1658, & had peaceable possession of the said Rectory given him by the Churchwardens Walter Proctor & William Brookes upon Wednesday the 18th day of the fores'd August and quiett and peaceable possession of the Parsonage house by Mr John Middleton late Curate there upon Monday the 13th day of December in the presence of Mr ... Glen of Dovebridge Clerke, & Mr Thomas Launder of Ridgley. - Walter Proctor William Brookes church wardens. After hee was instituted by Accepted Lord Bishop of Lich : & Coventric inducted by M' John Sanders Aug 7. 1660.~~ [see corrected entry, above] His previous career during the time of the Great Rebellion had been a stormy one. He had been instituted Vicar of S. Mary's, Lichfield, Sep. 29th 1645 ; but was soon after ousted, for in 1649 we find Tallent and Cleyton the joint ministers there. Butler succeeded Tallent, and Langley Cleyton ; and Langley was succeeded by Miles, both Miles and Butler being ejected in 1661, when Harrison was restored. On being driven out of S. Mary's about the year 1649 he became minister of Tettenhall. On April 13th 1655 the inhabitants of that place petitioned the Council of State for his removal, stating that he was of Lichfield, and on its reduction was articled against for malignancy, that he had been disapproved by "the Commissioners for the approbation of ministers " on Nov. 24th 1654, and yet was still kept by the malignants of Tettenhall, though they (the petitioners) had provided a substitute. [fn1 S.P. Dom. Inter., xcvi, p30] The Council made no order, but left the petitioners to proceed in the ordinary way. The result seems to have been that Harrison was ejected from Tettenhall about June 1655. It is doubtful whether he was ever legally instituted as Vicar, but for the first two years of his ministrations there he seems to have acted as Curate to Thomas Beeston the Vicar.

At Lichfield he was not only Vicar of S. Mary's but also Canon and Chancellor of the Cathedral, and though his duties as such would have mainly kept him there, yet he was resident at Blithfield, at least sometimes, for Isaac Sympson, Vicar of Alrewas, was married here to his eldest daughter, Sarah, in Jan. 1665/6, and their daughter, Sarah, was baptized here on Dec. 13th of that year.1 He was buried at St. Mary's Lichneld, as stated in the following entry in the Register of that Parish, "April 1676 Mr. Richard Harrison Vicar of St. Mary's was buried the 3rd day."[SHC 1919 p115-7]

►George Rhodes (Rector of Blithfield, Staffs) 1652-1713 **1676-1713**
c *son of G. and Dorothy* 26 Jan 1651.2 Repton, Derbys *son of George Roades (Vicar of Leek, Staffs) c1627-1695 and*
Dorothy (-----) ***[SCD]***
m (by Lichfield licence, 19 Jan) 22 Jan 1705.6 Blithfield: Eliza Hutchinson dau of John Hutchinson (Canon Residentiary of Lichfield) c1611-1705 **[SCD]** and Elizabeth Hacket dau of John Hacket (Bishop of Lichfield) 1592-1670 **[SCD]**)]
d May 1713

(admitted sizar at Clare Hall, Cambridge) 3 Jun 1667 [VENN]
(matriculated) 1667
(B.A.) 1670.1
(ordained deacon by Lichfield) 2 OR 3 Mar 1672
(licensed preacher by Lichfield) 4 Mar 1672
(M.A.) 1674
(incorporated at Oxford) 14 Jul 1674 [FOSTER]
(ordained priest by Lichfield) 20 May 1676
(Rector, Blithfield, Staffs) 22 May 1676-d
- (presented by Sir Walter Bagot of Blithfield, Staffs 3rd Baronet 1645-1704 [SLG])
- (paid first fruits and appointed) 22 May 1676
(Rector, Checkley, Staffs) 19 May 1703-d
- (presented by John Sherratt c1651-.... **[SCD]** and his wife Elizabeth)
- (admitted) 19 May 1703
(as Impropriator of the tithes of Church Broughton, Derbys, surrendered them to the patron Richard Bate of Foston on condition all future vicars were presented to the Bishop for presentation) 1702 [COX III 83]

school-house was erected, at the expense of the Earl of Macclesfield, in the beginning of the last century, for a free grammar school, but it has no endowment, except from a benefaction by the Rev. George Roades, who, in 1712, bequeathed property which was invested in the three per cents., and produces £9. 13. 10.per annum, which sum is paid to the master for teaching English to six poor boys of this parish. Eight almshouses for single women not under sixty years of age were founded and endowed by Elizabeth Ash, in 1676, with a rent-charge of £40 per annum. Additional benefactions to this charity make the total income £78. 3. 6. per annum.

One of the 1777 chalices is inscribed as the gift of George Roades, rector of Blithfield, in memory of his father George, vicar of Leek; the younger George, however, died in 1713: S.H.C. 1919, 122.

►Michael Ward (Rector of Leigh, Staffs) 1681-1744 **1713-1723**
b 7 Dec 1681 *son of Michael Ward of Newcastle, Staffs "gentleman" 1648-1685 [SLG] and Hannah dau of George Rhodes {Roades} (Vicar of Leek, Staffs) c1627-1695* ***[SCD]***
m1 31 Jan 1707.8 .....: Elizabeth Green; d 10 Apr 1712
m2 10 Jun 1714 Yoxall: Sarah dau of John Spateman c1653-1728 **[SCD]** and Mary dau of John Noble of Chorley in Farewell, Staffs Esquire c1622-c1676; c 2 May 1689 Yoxall; d 1753
i 14 Sep 1744 Blithfield; Will *as Rector of Leigh* (PCC) 15 Nov 1744
(admitted sizar at Clare, Cambridge) 11 Jul 1698 [VENN]

(matriculated) 1701
(LL.B.) 1704
(ordained deacon by Lichfield to title of Blithfield) 24 Sep 1704
(licensed preacher at Blithfield & elsewhere in diocese) 24 Sep 1704
(incorporated at Oxford) 1705
(ordained priest by Norwich) 17 Feb 1705
(Stipendiary Curate, Blithfield, Staffs)
- (as Clerk, signed parish register) 1707 & 1712
(Rector, Blithfield, Staffs) 1 Sep 1713-14 Oct 1723
- (presented by Trustees *pro* the underage [Sir] Walter Wagstaffe Bagot of Blithfield, Staffs [5th Baronet] 1702-1768)
- (admitted) 1 Sep 1713
(Rector, Leigh, Staffs) 14 Oct 1723-d
- (presented by Sir Walter Wagstaffe Bagot of Blithfield, Staffs 5th Baronet 1702-1768 [SLG])
- (instituted) 14 Oct 1723
[BLG 1914]
chn: Elizabeth Ward [1] b c1710; m 4 Jun 1730 Leigh: Thomas Lovet of Clayton
[2] John Ward [1] b 15 Sep 1715 **[SCD]**
Michael Ward [2] b 15 Dec 1716
Mary Ward [2] b 30 Nov 1717; m 30 Nov 1735 Leigh: (her cousin) John Spateman; d 1780
Samuel Ward [3] b 6 Apr 1726
Thomas Ward [4] b 7 Aug 1728
Francis Ward [5] b 13 Aug 1731 **[SCD]**

4 Jun 1730 Mr Thomas Lovatt of Newcastle under Lyme & Elizabeth dau of Michael Ward Rector of Leigh by Elizabeth his former wife were married by Mr John Ward of Stoke by License [LEIGH PR]

►Richard Levett (Rector of Blithfield, Staffs) 1695-1749 **1723-1749**
b 17 Sep 1695; c 25 Sep 1695 Saint Olave Old Jewry *son of Richard Levett of London (Alderman) c1664-.... and Ann (Sweetapple)*
m [X IGI] Catherine Walcot of Walcot, Salop
d *aged 53* Apr 1749; i Blithfield
(aged 16, matriculated from Magdalen, Oxford) 8 Apr 1712 [FOSTER]
(B.A.) 1716
(M.A., All Souls, Oxford) 1720
(ordained deacon by Oxford) 22 Sep 1723
(ordained priest by Oxford) 6 Oct 1723
(Rector, Blithfield, Staffs) 28 Nov 1723-d
- (presented by Sir Walter Wagstaffe Bagot of Blithfield, Staffs 5th Baronet 1702-1768 [SLG])
- (appointed) 28 Nov 1723 [CCEd]
- (instituted) 31 Jan 1724.5 [SHC 1919 123] [? error]
(Prebendary, York) 3 Dec 1730-d
- (collated) 3 Dec 1730
- (installed) 12 Dec 1730
[? (Prebendary, Southwell) 1733]
(Prebendary, Lichfield Tachbrook) 1 Aug 1740-d
- (appointed) 1 Aug 1740
- (collated) 10 Jul 1740 [PRO E 331 COV.../33]
(Rector, Leigh, Staffs) 29 Jan 1745-d
- (presented by Sir Walter Wagstaffe Bagot of Blithfield, Staffs 5th Baronet 1702-1768)
- (subscribed on appointment) 29 Jan 1745
chn: Richard Levett c 19 Sep 1730 Blithfield
Ann Levett c 16 Sep 1731 Blithfield
William Levett c 8 Nov 1735 Blithfield
Charles Levett c 31 Aug 1733 Blithfield

►Thomas Townson c1716-1792 **1749-1759**
b c1716 *son of John Townson of Much Lees, Essex clerk*

d 15 Apr 1792 Malpas; i Malpas
(aged 17, matriculated from Christ Church, Oxford) 13 Mar 1732.3 [FOSTER]
(Demy, Magdalen, Oxford) Jul 1735-7
(B.A.) 20 Oct 1736
(Fellow) 1737-52
(M.A.) 20 Jun 1739
(Vicar, Hatfield Peverell, Essex) 1746-9
(Rector, Blithfield, Staffs) 29 Aug 1749-a29 Jan 1759
- (presented by Sir Walter Wagstaffe Bagot of Blithfield, Staffs 5th Baronet 1702-1768)
- (instituted) 29 Aug 1749
(Proctor) 1749
(B.D.) 13 Jun 1750
(Rector, Malpas Lower Mediety, Cheshire)
- (appointed) 2 Jun 1752-d
(D.D., by diploma) 23 Feb 1779
(Archdeacon, Richmond) 1781-d
(author, religious works)
[SIMMS*]

►Walter Bagot (Rector of Blithfield, Staffs) 1731-1806 **1759-1806**
b 2 Nov 1731 *4th son of Sir Walter Wagstaffe Bagot of Blithfield, Staffs 5th Baronet 1702-1768 and Barbara 1st dau of William Legge 1st Earl of Dartmouth 1672-1750*
m1 7 Sep 1773 Ann dau of William Swynnerton of Butterton in Trentham, Staffs Esquire 1717-1790 [SLG]
m2 Mary Ward
d 10 Jul 1806; i 13 Jul 1806 Blithfield
(aged 18, matriculated from Christ Church, Oxford) 20 Jun 1750 [FOSTER]
(B.A.) 1754
(M.A.) 1757
(ordained deacon by Oxford) 5 Jun 1757
(ordained priest by Lichfield) 23 Jul 1757
(Rector, Leigh, Staffs) 25 Jul 1757-d
- (presented by his father Sir Walter Wagstaffe Bagot of Blithfield, Staffs 5th Baronet 1702-1768)
- (instituted) 25 Jul 1757
(Rector, Blithfield, Staffs) 29 Jan 1759-d
- (presented by his father Sir Walter Wagstaffe Bagot of Blithfield, Staffs 5th Baronet 1702-1768)
- (instituted) 29 Jan 1759
chn: Egerton Arden Bagot
William Bagot
Hervey Bagot
Honora Bagot m 15 Dec 1795 Hon. Augustus George Legge 1773-1828 **[SCD];** d 2 Oct 1863
Elizabeth Bagot m Joseph Phillimore D.C.L.
Louisa Bagot m 16 Jan 1804 Richard Levett of Milford Hall, Staffs gentleman 1772-1843 **[SLG]**
[2] Ralph Bagot (Vicar of Ettington, Warwicks)
Mary Bagot
Caroline Bagot
Charlotte Bagot m 5 May 1830 William Somerville (Rector of Aston-Somerville, Glos) 1789-1857
Jane Margaret Bagot
Agnes Bagot

►Hon. Richard Bagot (Rector of Blithfield, Staffs) 1782-1854 **1807-1845**
b 22 Nov 1782 *son of William Bagot 1st Baron Bagot 1728-1798 and Elizabeth Louisa St John dau of John St John 2nd Viscount St John c1695-1749 [CP]*
m 22 Dec 1806 Harriet Villiers dau of George Bussy Villiers 4th Earl of Jersey 1735-1805 [CP]; d 18 Oct 1870
d *"through a complication of disorders"* 15 May 1854 Brighton

(educated at Rugby School, Warwicks) Jan 1790-1799 [REGISTER]
(aged 16, matriculated from Christ Church, Oxford) 30 Apr 1799 [FOSTER]
(B.A.) 1803
(M.A., All Souls) 1806
(D.D., by diploma) 30 Nov 1829
(Fellow, All Souls, Oxford) 1803-6
(ordained deacon by Lichfield) 7 Sep 1806
(ordained priest by Exeter *pro* Lichfield) Dec 1806
(Rector, Leigh, Staffs) 23 Dec 1806
- (presented by his brother William Bagot 2nd Baron Bagot 1773-1856)
- (instituted) 23 Dec 1806
(Rector, Blithfield, Staffs) 15 Jan 1807-1845
- (presented by his brother William Bagot 2nd Baron Bagot 1773-1856)
- (instituted) 15 Jan 1807
- (signed return regarding education of the poor) [PARL (1818)]
(Prebendary, Lichfield Pipa Parva) 8 Apr 1812-a10 Oct 1828
- (collated) 8 Apr 1812 [B/A/1/28 p 168]
- (installed) nd [D30/2/1/9 pp 155-7]
(Canon, Worcester) 1817
(Dean, Canterbury) 1827
(Bishop, Oxford) 1829-45
(Bishop, Bath & Wells) 1845-d
[DNB]
chn: [8 sons, 4 daus, all of whom survived their father]
Lewis Francis Bagot b 18 Feb 1813 **[SCD]**

►**Hon. Hervey Charles Bagot 1812-1879** **1846-1879**
b 17 Dec 1812 *2nd son of William Bagot 2nd Baron Bagot 1773-1856*
m 16 Jul 1873 Frances Mary dau of Thomas Dickin; (but had no chn); d 13 Jul 1902
d 3 Jan 1879
(aged, matriculated from Christ Church, Oxford) [FOSTER]
(Fellow, All Souls, Oxford)
(B.A.) 1834
(M.A.) 1836
(ordained deacon by Oxford) 1836
(ordained priest by Oxford) 1837
(Stipendiary Curate, Blithfield, Staffs) c1839-1846
(Rector, Blithfield, Staffs) 19 Jan 1846-d
- (presented by the Lord Chancellor)
- (instituted) 19 jan 1846
[BP]

►**Douglas Stuart Murray c1850-1920** **1879-1919**
b 28 May 1853 *3rd son of George Murray of Southfleet, Kent clerk and Penelope Frances Elizabeth Pemberton (Austin)*
m 22 Apr 1879 Harriet Georgiana Isabel dau of George Thomas Orlando Bridgeman (Rector of Wigan, Lancs) 1823-1895 **[SCD];** b 7 Dec 1853; d 11 Nov 1921
d 19 Mar 1920
(kinsman of Duke of Atholl)
(aged 18, matriculated from Exeter College, Oxford) 25 Nov 1871 [FOSTER]
(B.A.) 1875
(Stipendiary Curate, Wigan All Saints, Lancs) 1877-9
(M.A.) 1878
(Rector, Blithfield, Staffs) 13 Jun 1879-1 Nov 1919
- (presented by William Bagot 3rd Baron Bagot 1811-1887)
- (instituted) 13 Jun 1879
- (resigned) 1 Nov 1919
(in retirement of London)
(author, "Notes on the Early History of the Parish of Blithfield" in SHC 1919)
chn: Walter Murray b 13 Aug 1882; d 8 Nov 1945
George Murray b 20 Nov 1884; d 21 Jun 1940
Emily Murray b 2 Oct 1886

Mabel Murray b 4 Nov 1888; d 13 Oct 1949
Margaret Murray b 29 Jan 1894
Leonard Murray b 31 Dec 1896; d 13 Mar 1917
Edward Murray b 8 Jan 1899; d 30 Jul 1964

1920-1928

►**Charles Ayrton Burgoyne Paris 1882-....** **1928-1932**
b cNov 1882 Prescot RD, Lancs
(at Lichfield Theological College) 1904
(ordained deacon by Liverpool) 1905
(ordained priest by Liverpool) 1907
(Honorary Chaplain to the Forces) 1921
(Rector, Blithfield, Staffs) 1928-32
(Vicar, Clive, Salop) 1932-5
(Rector, Thorpe Constantine, Staffs) 1935-p1953
(Vicar, Nomans Heath, Staffs) 1939-p1953

►**Edward Theophilus Siddall Jones c1889-.....** **1932-1945**
(Associate, King's College, London)
(ordained deacon by Southwark) 1912
(Stipendiary Curate, Warsop) 1912-5
(ordained priest by Southwark) 1914
(Stipendiary Curate, Sutton St Barnabas, Surrey) 1920-2
(Stipendiary Curate, Trentham, Staffs) 1926-32
(Rector, Blithfield, Staffs) 1932-45

►**Harry Herbert Goodin 1885-....** **1946-....**
b cAug 1885 Leighton Buzzard RD
(at Lichfield Theological College)
(at University of Durham)
(L.Th.)
(ordained deacon by Lichfield) 1922
(Stipendiary Curate, Forebridge, Staffs) 1922-5
(ordained priest by Lichfield) 1924
(Stipendiary Curate, Leek St Luke, Staffs) 1925-8
(Stipendiary Curate, in charge, Heath Hayes in Cannock, Staffs) 1928-30
(Vicar, Marchington-cum-Marchington Woodlands, Staffs) 1930-3
(Vicar, Hednesford, Staffs) 1933-46
(Rector, Colton, Staffs) 1946-....
(Rector, Blithfield, Staffs) 1946-....

►**Arthur Stanley Towlson 1920-2000** **1957-1970**
b 6 Aug 1920 [BMD]
d *aged 79* Jan 2000 Stafford RD
(at St John's College, Durham)
(L.Th.) 1948
(A.L.C.D.) 1948
(B.A.) 1949
(ordained deacon by Liverpool) 1950
(Stipendiary Curate, Southport All Saints, Lancs) 1950-2
(ordained priest by Liverpool) 1951
(priest Vicar Choral, Chancellor of Lichfield [? & Lichfield Alrewas]) 1952-7
(Rector, Ingestre-cum-Tixall, Staffs) 1953-7
(Chaplain to Earl of Shrewsbury) 1953-7
(Rector, Blithfield & Colton, Staffs) 1957-70

(Rector, Longton St James, Staffs) 1970-1
(license to officiate) 1971-8
(Priest-in-charge, Checkley & Priest-in-charge, Croxden-cum-Hollington, Staffs) 1978-85
(retired) 1985
(permission to officiate in the diocese of Lichfield) 1985-....

Assistant Clergy

►Ralph Coke {?Coxe} e1492-.... c1532
(?Stipendiary Curate, Blithfield, Staffs)
- (as "Dominus Ralph Coke, capilanus") c1532 FAS

►Richard Burne e1533-1589 1579-1589
i *Richard Burne Curate* 7 Jun 1589 Blithfield
(Stipendiary Curate, Sandon, Staffs)
- (in office) 19 Jun 1573
(Stipendiary Curate, Blithfield, Staffs)
- (in office) 7 Oct 1579 [CCEd as Brene but name uncertain]

►William Talbot c1559-.... 1593
**** Entry might confuse men of the same name*
(ordained priest by Lichfield) 1584
(Perpetual Curate, Ranton, Staffs)
- (in office) 22 Jan 1583.4
- (replaced in office) ?1592
(Stipendiary Curate, Blithfield, Staffs)
- ("Scholaris ruralis et in sacris litteris incumbens.") 1593
(Curate, Ryton-in-Dunsmore, Warwicks)
- (in office) 14 Oct 1597 & 26 Jul 1605 & 13 Sep 1616

►Roger Bolton c1558-.... c1595-c1599
(ordained priest by Lichfield) 15 Dec 1583
(?Perpetual Curate, Newchapel, Staffs)
- (in office) 22 Jan 1584
(?Perpetual Curate, Burslem St John, Staffs)
- (in office) 1584
(Stipendiary Curate, Stoke-upon-Trent St Peter, Staffs) c1586-93
- (paid a subsidy of 6/8) 1586
- ("Scholaris ruralis et in sacris litteris eruditus") 1593
(Stipendiary Curate, Blithfield, Staffs) c1595-9
- (in office) c1595-c1599 [1915]
- (in office) 13 Sep 1597
(Perpetual Curate, Marchington, Staffs)
- (in office) 29 Jul 1605
(Perpetual Curate, Gnosall, Staffs) a1608-1615
- (kept the parish register) 17 Nov 1608-21 Aug 1615

►Henry Aberley c1578-1642 1604
**** Entry might confuse men of the same name*
i 4 Feb 1642 Stretton-en-le-Field [COX III]
(Stipendiary Curate, Barrington, Cambs)
(ordained deacon by Ely) 21 Mar 1602
(Stipendiary Curate, Blithfield, Staffs)
- (appointed) 27 Sep 1604
- (No preacher, salary £8) [1604 return, surname illegible]
(Stipendiary Curate, Tatenhill, Staffs)
- (in office) 29 Jul 1605

(Rector, Stretton-en-le-Field, Derbys) 28 Apr 1637-d
- (presented by John Browne armiger)
- (instituted) 28 Apr 1637
- (in office) 22 Mar 1639

►**John Beardmore c1570-?1658** **1605-1611**
(Stipendiary Curate, Blithfield, Staffs) 22 Jul 1605-15 Jan 1610.1
- (in office) 22 Jul 1605
- (in office) 1611
[see above]

Thomas Pickin (*compliant* minister of Swynnerton) c1613-?1653
Pickin, born about 1613, was a younger son of Thomas Pickin of Maer yeoman e1579-?1640 and Alice. He studied at Oxford where on 11 May 1632 he matriculated as a commoner from Magdalen Hall. At Oxford he graduated B.A. on 11 Jun 1634 (M.A., 22 Apr 1637). About 1637 he was presumably ordained deacon and priest. About 1639 (his father-in-law) John Beardmore (rector of Blithfield) c1572-1658 **QV** probably appointed him as stipendiary curate-in-charge of Blithfield and on 5 Feb 1643.4 he probably continued as *compliant* assistant minister-in-charge. He had probably resigned before 3 Sep 1645 when he was admitted *compliant* minister of Swynnerton where he paid first fruits on 19 May 1647. On 24 Jul 1647 the *Committee for Plundered Ministers* investigated - but apparently dismissed - a claim by Joseph Sonde ?1598-1672 **QV** (Pickin's successor here) that he had been settled into Swynnerton rectory. Still in office Pickin appears to have died, aged about 40, and was probably buried on 7 Jan 1652.3 at Adbaston. Pickin married on 4 Nov 1639 at Blithfield to Elizabeth Beardmore 1620-1640 dau of John Beardmore (rector of Blithfield) c1572-?a1658 by whom he had 1 daughter.

Thomas Pickin (*compliant* minister of Swynnerton, Staffs) c1613-?1653 **c1635-1645**
b c1613 *younger son of Thomas Pickin of Maer, Staffs yeoman*
m 4 Nov 1639 Blithfield: Elizabeth Beardmore dau of John Beardmore c1572-?a1658 **[SCD];** c 21 May 1620
Blithfield; i 24 Nov 1640 Blithfield
[? i 7 Jan 1652.3 Adbaston]; Will NOT FOUND
(as son of Thomas of Mayor co Stafford, pleb., aged 19, matriculated from Magdalen Hall, Oxford) 11 May 1632 [FOSTER]
(B.A.) 11 Jun 1634
(stipendiary curate, Blithfield, Staffs) *c1635*
- (in office) c1635 [SHC 1915 no source]
(stipendiary curate-in-charge, Blithfield, Staffs) c1639
- (in office) c1639
(*compliant* assistant minister-in-charge, Blithfield, Staffs)
From 5 Feb 1643.4 he may have continued here as *compliant* assistant minister-in-charge
- (probably resigned before 3 Sep 1645)
(M.A.) 22 Apr 1637
(*compliant* minister, Swynnerton, Staffs) 3 Sep 1645
- (admitted) 3 Sep 1645
- (paid first fruits) 19 May 1647
- (in office) a3 Feb 1651.2
- (replaced in office) 24 Apr 1654
[NOTE: WALKER states that he was ejected and WALKER REVISED that he died c1653 but both without evidence]
[WALKER REVISED 325]
chn: .[dau]. Pickin c 1640 Blithfield; [? i *as Elizabeth* Feb 1644.5 Blithfield]

(1714) Pickin ----- [ejected from] Swinerton [Walker (1714) p334]
(1915) (Swynnerton) On the 24 Jul of that year [1647] the Committee for Plundered Ministers enquired into a complaint made by Joseph Sound, who asserted that he had been settled into this rectory. The committee ordered that Sound be confirmed in this rectory unless Pickin could show good cause to the contrary before 9 Nov 1647. Apparently Pickin did show such good cause, for he was still minister here in 1651.2 [1915]
(1919) It is not known what it was that terminated his connection with Blithfield, but it appears from the Register of 1639 that Thomas Picken married Elizabeth Beardmore on Nov. 4th of that year, and about this time became Curate. Picken baptized a daughter Nov. 22nd 1640, and remained in charge of the Parish till 1645. His wife was buried at Blithfield Nov.

24th 1640 and his daughter Elizabeth Feb. 1644/5. On Sep. 3rd 1645 he was instituted Rector of Swynnerton, for which, benefice he paid " first-fruits " May 19th 1647 ; but a certain Puritan Minister, Joseph Sond [fn3. Brit. Mus. Add. MSS. 15671, folios 162 and 240. On July 24 1647 the " Commissioners for plundered ministers " enquired into a complaint made by Joseph Sound, who asserted that he had been settled into the Rectory of Swynnerton. They ordered that he should be confirmed in the possession of that Rectory, unless Picken could show cause to the contrary before November 9 1647. Apparently he did show such cause, for he was still incumbent of Swynnerton in 1651-2, and Sond became Curate of Newcastle, where he remained till April 24 1654, when Oliver Cromwell presented him to the Rectory of Swynnerton. (Lamb MSS. 997, p. 109.)]. [SHC 1919 p113]
(1948) PICKIN, THOMAS (334) M.A. (Ox.). R, of Swynnerton, 1645. Kept rectory till his death, c1653, though possession disputed by Jos. Sound [Calamy Rev]. [Walker (1948) p325]

[father] Thomas Pickin of Maer, Staffs yeoman e1579-?1640
m Alice -----
Will (Lichfield) 2 Oct 1639/30 Jun 1640

chn: Robert Pickin b c1609
Thomas Pickin b c1613
John Pickin

(2 Oct 1639) Thomas Pickin of Meare yeoman ... to son Thomas £100 to be paid to him by Robert my eldest son ... son John £200 ... son Robert £1 to buy a ring ... sister Cleyton £1 ... Mr Hodgkin minister of the place where I now live £2 ... remainder to wife Alice [executrix] ... witnesses: Tho: Pickin cler. Ellen Cleyton

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John Middleton (*compliant* assistant minister-in-charge of Blithfield) c1616-1681
Middleton, born about 1616, is of unknown parentage. He studied at Cambridge where at Easter 1633 he matriculated pensioner from Trinity College. At Cambridge he graduated B.A. in 1636.7 (M.A., 1640). He was ordained deacon and on 19 Sep 1641 ordained priest by Lichfield. On 5 Feb 1643.4 he may not have been in an office. Probably after appointment by John Beardmore (rector of Blithfield) c1572-1658 he was by 3 Feb 1651.2 in office as *compliant* assistant minister-in-charge of Blithfield. On 4 Aug 1658 Richard Harrison c1611-1676 **QV** was admitted by the *Commission for approbation of public preachers* as *compliant* minister of Blithfield and on 13 Dec 1658 Middleton gave up possession of the rectory house to him. In early Jun 1660 he may not have been in an office. On 20 May 1661 after presentation by William Courtenay 15th Earl of Devon 1628-1702 he was instituted as rector of Stradishall, Suffolk. He was licensed as a preacher by Norwich on 16 Oct 1662. Still in office he died, aged about 65, and was buried here on 25 Aug 1681. Middleton probably married in 1668 at Stradishall to Mary Finch (no known children).

John Middleton (*compliant* assistant minister-in-charge of Blithfield) c1616-1681 a1652-1658
b c1616 *of unknown parentage*
[? m 1668 Stradishall: Mary Finch] [Boyd's Marriage register]
i 25 Aug 1681 Stradishall
chn: not known

(matriculated pensioner from Trinity College, Cambridge) Easter 1633 [VENN]
(B.A.) 1636.7
(M.A.) 1640
(as M.A., ordained priest by Lichfield) 19 Sep 1641
(compliant assistant minister-in-charge, Blithfield, Staffs) a3 Feb 1651.2-[? 13 Dec 1658]
- (as Minister, in office) a3 Feb 1651.2
- (Richard Harrison admitted by the Triers *as compliant* minister, Blithfield) 4 Aug 1658
- (as Curate, gave up possession of the parsonage house to Richard Harrison) 13 Dec 1658
(Rector, Stradishall, Suffolk) 1661-d
- (presented by William Earl of Devon) [William Courtenay 15th Earl of Devon 1628-1702]
- (instituted) 20 May 1661
(licensed as a preacher by Norwich) 16 Oct 1662

(1652) Plaintiffs: Anne Middleton, widow and John Middleton. Defendants: John Denew, James Denew and Edmund Hare.Subject: manor of Lymborne, Suffolk. [NA C 10/16/104] [Lymborne in Homersfield, Suffolk]
(1654) Plaintiffs: James Pett. Defendants: Anne Middleton widow, and John Middleton. Subject: money matters, Suffolk. Document type: bill, answer. [NA C 5/21/87]
(1658/1660) Richard Harrison Mr. of Arts & clerk was approved & admitted Rector of Blythfield within the County of Stafford the fourth day of August 1658. & had peaceable possession of the said Rectory given him by the Church=wardens Walter Proctor & William Brookes upon Wednesday the 18th day of the fores'd August; [handwriting changes] and quiett & peaceable possession of the Parsonage-house by Mr John Middleton late Curate there upon Munday the 13th day of December in the presence of Mr ----- Glen of Dovebridge Clerke, & Mr Thomas Launder of Ridgley. - Walter Proctor William Brookes Church wardens [handwriting changes] After hee was Instituted by Accepted Lord Bishop of Lichf: & Coventrie &

inducted by Mr. John Sanders [? John Saunders B.A. (Rector of Colton) c1619-1682] Aug: 7. 1660. [Blithfield PR - original checked]
(1673) Isaac Middleton i 3 Dec 1673 Stradishall
(1915) 6 Middleton. Perhaps M.A. 1640 St John's College [*recte* Trinity], Cambridge (Venn). Mentioned as the minister here in the 1651.2 return and as curate on 13 Dec 1658, when he gave up "possession of the parsonage house "to Harrison. Possibly therefore curate, not rector. [1915 p29]
[In 1651.2 return with "10.19.02" after his name = meaning ?? October 19th 1602] [SHC 1919 p115]

►Michael Ward 1681-1744 **1707-1712**
(Stipendiary Curate, Blithfield, Staffs)
- (as Clerk, signed parish register) 1707 & 1712
[see above]

►Edward Edwards e1726-.... **1750**
(B.A.)
(Stipendiary Curate, Blithfield, Staffs)
- (appointed) 31 Aug 1750

►Edward Sneyd c1732-1795 **1756**
b c1732 *4th son of Ralph Sneyd of Keele, Staffs Esquire 1692-1733 [SLG] and Anna Maria dau of Alan Holford of Davenham, Cheshire*
d 17 Oct 1795 [FOSTER]; i *aged 63* 23 Oct 1795 ?Wolstanton;
(aged 18, matriculated from Brasenose, Oxford) 16 Mar 1752 [FOSTER]
(B.A.) 1755
(ordained deacon by Lichfield) 14 Mar 1756
(Stipendiary Curate, Blithfield, Staffs)
- (appointed) 15 Mar 1756
(Vicar, Wolstanton, Staffs) 5 Nov 1756-d
- (presented by Ralph Sneyd of Keele, Staffs Esquire 1723-1793 [SLG])
- (instituted) 5 Nov 1756

►Edward Pope c1794-1855 **1817**
b c1794 *son of Ebenezer Pope of Lincoln's Inn Fields, Westminster armiger*
m ....
d Feb 1855
(aged 18, matriculated from Brasenose, Oxford) 8 Apr 1812 [FOSTER]
(Michel Exhibitioner, Queen's, Oxford) 1815-6
(Scholar) 1816-20
(B.A.) 1816
(to be ordained deacon by Gloucester *pro* Lichfield) Dec 1816
(Stipendiary Curate, Blithfield, Staffs)
- (licensed) 16 Apr 1817
(M.A.) 1819
(Fellow) 1820-7
(Archdeacon, Jamaics) 1825-d
(B.D. & D.D.) 1836
chn: Charlotte Frances Pope m George Frederick Campbell Bray

►John James Cory c1790-1834 **1830**
b c1790 *son of John Cory of Queen Street, London wine-merchant*
d *aged 43* 22 Aug 1834 Rickmansworth, Herts
(educated at St Paul's)
(admitted sizar at Trinity, Cambridge) 20 Sep 1808 [VENN]

(matriculated) Easter 1809
(Scholar) 1812
(B.A.) 1813
(ordained priest by Ely) 27 Mar 1814
(M.A.) 1816
(Fellow, Sidney, Cambridge) 1817
(B.D.) 1823
(Stipendiary Curate, Blithfield, Staffs)
- (appointed but not licensed) 13 Jul 1830 [CCEd]
(Vicar, Orton-cum-Tywcross, Leics) 1831-4
- (presented by Oxford)
- (instituted) 12 Oct 1831
(Vicar, Aylsham, Norfolk) 1834

►Francis Edward Paget (Rector of Elford, Staffs) 1806-1882 **1833**
b 24 May 1806 *1st son of Sir Edward Paget of St George's Hanover Square London Knight 1775-1849 and (his 1st wife) Frances dau of William Bagot 1st Baron Bagot 1729-1798*
m 2 Jun 1840 Fanny dau of William Chester (Rector of Dunton, Norfolk); d 1890
d 4 Aug 1882 "The Rectory", Elford; i 8 Aug 1882 Elford
(educated at Westminster) 16 Sep 1817-....
(aged 18, matriculated from Christ Church, Oxford) 3 Jun 1824 [FOSTER]
(Student) 1825-36
(B.A.) 1828
(M.A.) 1830
(ordained priest by Lichfield) 19 Dec 1830
(Chaplain to Bishop Bagot of Oxford)
(Stipendiary Curate, Blithfield, Staffs)
- (licensed) 22 Jan 1833
(Rector, Elford Staffs) 28 Jul 1835-d
- (presented by Fulke Greville Upton LATER Howard 1773-1846 *pro* his wife Mary Howard)
- (instituted) 28 Jul 1835
(author, religious and antiquarian)
[BP (ANGLESEY)] [DNBonline]
chn: Howard Francis Paget m 15 May 1884 Alice Catherine dau of John Thomas Jeffcock (Rector of Wolverhampton, Staffs) c1834-1895 **[SCD]**
[6 daus]

(Elford) In his own parish of Elford, Paget implemented in a practical way the ideas advocated in his fiction. As with other Tractarian clergy he introduced the practice of daily morning and evening prayer in the church, and began to increase the frequency with which holy communion was celebrated. He raised funds to restore the building, including the collection of pennies from the children for a new font. The reopening of the restored church was celebrated on 2 August 1849, during which Paget preached a sermon published as The Destinies of God's Temples (1849). The annual dedication festival became, in subsequent years, an important meeting place for Staffordshire clergy. Further restoration work in 1869 was followed by his published account of the church in 1870. [DNBonline]

►Thomas James 1809-1863 **c1837**
b Feb 1809 *2nd son of Thomas James of Croydon, Surrey surgeon*
d *aged 54* 18 Oct 1863
(educated at Eton)
(aged 19, matriculated from Christ Church, Oxford) 29 May 1828 [FOSTER]
(B.A.) 1832
(Assistant Master, Charterhouse) 1832-6
(M.A.) 1835
(ordained priest) 1836
(Stipendiary Curate, Blithfield, Staffs) c1837
(Vicar, Sibbertoft, Northants) 1838-d
(Vicar, Theddingworth, Leics) 1842-d
(incorporated at Cambridge) 1854
(Honorary Corresponding Secretary of the Northants Architectural Society)
(translator, "Aesop's Fables")

►**Hon. Hervey Charles Bagot 1812-1879** **c1839-1846**
(Stipendiary Curate, Blithfield, Staffs) c1839-1846
[see above]

►**Arthur Wigston Howard (Vicar of Pickhill, Yorks) 1846-1911** **1873-1874**
b 17 Mar 1846 Colchester, Essex *son of William Howard*
d 4 Oct 1911 Florence
(educated at Marlborough)
(admitted pensioner at Trinity, Cambridge) 18 Nov 1863 [VENN]
(matriculated) Michs 1865
(B.A.) 1869
(ordained deacon by Winchester) 1871
(Stipendiary Curate, Kennington St Mark, London SE) 1871-3
(M.A.) 1872
(ordained priest by Winchester) 1873
(Stipendiary Curate, Blithfield, Staffs) 1873-4
(Stipendiary Curate, Rotherfield, Sussex) 1875-6
(Stipendiary Curate, Brighton St Mary, Sussex) 1876
(Stipendiary Curate, Groby, Leics) 1876-8
(Stipendiary Curate, St Keverne, Cornwall) 1878-83
(Stipendiary Curate, St Ives, Cornwall) 1883-4
(Vicar, Pickhill, Yorks) 1884-1906
(B.D., Durham) 1887
(B.D., London) 1908
(in retirement of 12 Mount Hermon Road, Torquay)

OUR LADY'S SERVICE *AT* BLITHFIELD

►**Thomas Brandesbury e1493-....** **1533**
(Chantry Chaplain *pro* Our Lady's Service *at* Blithfield, Staffs) 1533
- (in office) 1533